

[Report 1938] / Medical Officer of Health, Woodhall Spa U.D.C.

Contributors

Woodhall Spa (England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1938

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Urban District of Woodhall Spa



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1938

GEORGE A. W. NEILL, M.D., B.Ch., D.P.H.

W. K. MORTON & SONS,
PRINTERS,
HORNCastle.

Urban District of Woodhall Spa.

COUNCIL FOR 1938 (Mid-year).

Chairman:

Mr. G. R. FORBES.

Vice-Chairman:

MR. E. LISTER.

Capt. C. C. Allport.
Mr. J. Collins.
Mr. E. S. Fuller.
Col. S. V. Hotchkin,
M.C., J.P.

Mr. E. Pell.
Mr. G. A. Roslyn.
Mr. J. H. S. Targett.
Mr. J. W. W. Walter.
Mr. T. M. Wheat.
Mr. John Wilson.

Public Health, General Purposes and Finance Committee:

Chairman:

MR. E. LISTER.

(and the Whole Council in Committee).

OFFICIALS:

Clerk:

J. E. CHATTERTON.

Medical Officer of Health:

GEORGE ARMOUR, M.B., Ch.B.

(Relinquished appointment 31/3/38).


G. A. W. NEILL, M.D., B.Ch., D.P.H.

(Commenced 1/4/38).

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

J. B. SCHOLFIELD, M.R.S.I., M.Inst., M.&Cy.E.

<p>Died 4/10/1938. Councillor J. Collins.</p>



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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
Woodhall Spa Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year ended 31st December, 1938. The report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Sanitary Officers (outside London) Regulations, 1935, Article 17 (5) and the Sanitary Officers Order, 1926, Article 14 (3). The form of the report is that indicated by the Minister of Health in his Circular No. 1728, of the 25th October, 1938, regarding the contents of the Reports of Medical Officers of Health for 1938.

This is as you are aware, the first report I have had the privilege to present to you, and as I did not take over duties until the beginning of April it cannot be considered the record of a complete year's progress. In a District the size of Woodhall Spa it is extremely difficult to assess the amount of progress which should be expected annually; principally on account of its position as a holiday resort. In view of the contents of the recent Government report on the Incidence of Tuberculosis it behoves those districts whose penny rate product does not exceed £100 to reconsider their position with regard to the provision of, and progress with Public Health Services.

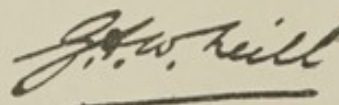
The vital statistics cannot be considered unsatisfactory when the peculiar nature of the district is considered. It is well to bear in mind that many of the inhabitants of the Spa take up their residence there in the latter decades of life, in order to derive benefit from the treatment available and to pass the evening of their days in pleasant surroundings. Consequently it is only to be expected that the death-rate will be high and the birth-rate low.

The sanitary circumstances of the area show evidence of coming improvements. The acquisition of the water undertaking and the final approval of the new Sewage Scheme are both important steps in the right direction and leave open the door to great opportunities, but in the improvement of these services, however, much remains to be done. Housing is hardly a problem in the Spa by reason of the nature of the prevailing local conditions.

The record of 1938 as far as Infectious Diseases and Tuberculosis is concerned is, on the whole, satisfactory, for though notifications were received none of them represented any great danger to the Public Health while the adoption of the free immunisation scheme against Diphtheria is an important milestone in the Sanitary Administration of the District. On the other hand the continued absence of any definite provision of Hospital accommodation constitutes a situation which, though it has existed for a considerable length of time without ill result, should be terminated at the earliest possible opportunity.

In submitting this report I wish to express my thanks to those few from whom I have received assistance and co-operation during the course of 1938, and particularly to Mr. J. B. Scholfield for his unfailing willingness on all occasions.

Your obedient servant,



Medical Officer of Health,
Woodhall Spa Urban District.

5th June, 1939.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Urban District.

SITUATION. Latitude 53° 9 min. 0 sec. N.

Longitude 0° 17 min. 0 sec. W.

ELEVATION. Between 15 feet and 85 feet above Sea level.

AREA OF URBAN DISTRICT. 1874 Acres.

POPULATION OF URBAN DISTRICT. (1931) Census 1372.

(Mid-1938 estimated by Registrar General) 1451.

DENSITY OF POPULATION. 0.89 persons per acre.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (according to Rate Books) 437.

SUM REPRESENTED BY 1d. RATE. £42 9s. 8d.

RATEABLE VALUE OF URBAN DISTRICT. £11,330.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Woodhall Spa being a small holiday resort and "Spa" does not experience waves of prosperity and depression such as occur in industrial areas or even in the larger seaside resorts which are to a greater or lesser extent dependent on the spending power of the industrial population. As the permanent population consists principally of those retired from the professional walks of life, and those concerned with catering for the visitors who make use of the Spa and golfing facilities during the Summer months, unemployment is virtually non-existent.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1938.

LIVE BIRTHS.

	Males.	Females	Total.
Legitimate	4	6	10
Illegitimate	—	—	—
			<hr/> 10

Birth Rate per 1000 estimated population:—6.89.

STILL BIRTHS.

	Males.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	1	—	1
Illegitimate	—	—	—
			<hr/> 1

Still Birth Rate per 1000 total live and still births:—90.91.

Total Birth Rate (live and still) per 1,000 population:—7.58.

DEATHS.

Males.	Females.	Total.
18	17	35

(Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population:—24.12).

DEATH RATE PER 1,000 ESTIMATED POPULATION

(Corrected Death Rate)

14.85.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Number of Women dying as a result of childbirth.

(Headings No. 29 and No. 30 in the Registrar General's Short List).

Nil

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total Births (Live and Still):—

0.00

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

(There was one death recorded of an infant under 1 year of age.)

All infants per 1,000 live Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	100
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	100
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	0

OTHER STATISTICS.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
„ „ Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
„ „ Heart Disease (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	15

LOCAL STATISTICS.

During the past 6 years there has been a small but steady increase in the Estimated population of Woodhall Spa, until 1938 when a slight decrease was recorded. This is shown in Table I. Further examination of these figures shown in this Table reveals a decrease in the Birth Rate and an increase in the Death Rate for 1938. In almost any other area these figures, a decline in the Birth Rate and a marked increase in the Death Rate, would be most disturbing, but in view of the peculiar social circumstances of Woodhall Spa their sinister significance is considerably reduced. The "comparability factor" supplied by the Registrar General (0.62) is intended to allow compensation for such districts as Woodhall Spa with an "Elderly Population" but in spite of this the adjusted death rate is above the average for England and Wales (Vide Table II). However, the severe winter conditions towards the end of the year are probably responsible for this.

The other figures in Table II, which compares the Vital Statistics and incidence of infectious diseases for Woodhall Spa with certain recognised statistical areas of England and Wales, illustrates some interesting points. It will be seen how free the Urban District has been

from infectious diseases. On the other hand, the infantile mortality and maternal morbidity figures are far in excess of those in any of the other areas, although the actual number of infant deaths and notifications of puerperal pyrexia amounted to one of each. This supports the contention recently voiced that annual statistics of these figures are of little value in a small Sanitary District. This is especially true when, the "rates" in question are so often utilised as an index of the efficiency of the social services in the district. A much more valuable figure for these statistics would be their averages over ten years. It is to be hoped that some formula allowing the computation on these lines will be evolved in the future.

In Table III is shown a detailed statement of the causes of death, arranged according to the headings of the Registrar General's Short List. The striking feature of this is that of the 35 deaths in the Urban District, 21 were caused by disease of the circulatory system (15 by heart disease and 6 by other circulatory diseases). Perhaps, though not at first obvious, these figures pay tribute to the health of Woodhall Spa. It is allotted to all men once to die and so though the human race may be protected from those diseases and injuries that take toll of young and middle aged lives, it is impossible to do more than delay the ultimate wearing out of the body. The heart and circulatory system being the most highly stressed part of the human organism is therefore the first to fail hence "Heart Disease" is an affection of those advanced in years. It is easy to reason then, that a district where many deaths are so accounted for is a healthy district in that a large proportion of the inhabitants survive until the ultimate disintegration of the body takes place.

One other point worthy of note in Table III is the fact that there was only one death from Cancer. This is satisfactory in that a population of high average age such as that of Woodhall Spa, usually shows a fairly high incidence of Cancer.

TABLE I.
VITAL STATISTICS FOR WOODHALL SPA FOR THE PAST 6 YEARS.

Year	Estimated Population	Live Births		Deaths			Maternal Deaths	Infantile Mortality Figure.
		Number	Rate	Number	Crude Rate	Adjusted Rate		
1933	1400	8	5.7	18	12.58	*	0	0
1934	1421	4	2.81	26	11.25	6.97	0	0
1935	1424	9	6.23	18	12.64	*	0	0
1936	1438	15	10.42	25	17.38	*	0	0
1937	1458	15	10.42	23	15.77	*	0	66.6
1938	1451	10	6.89	35	24.12	14.85	0	100

* Figures not available.

NOTE.—All rates per 1,000 estimated population.

Infantile Mortality figure per 1,000 Live Births.

TABLE II.

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death-rates and Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases for the year 1938.

England and Wales, London, 126 Great Towns and 148 Smaller Towns, compared with Woodhall Spa.

(Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.)

	England and Wales	126 County Boro's and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administrative County	Woodhall Spa. Urban District
	Rates per 1,000 Population.				
Births:—					
Live	15.1	15.0	15.4	13.4	6.89
Still	0.60	0.65	0.60	0.49	0.00
Deaths:—					
All Causes	11.6	11.7	11.0	11.4	14.85
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Smallpox	0.00	—	0.00	—	0.00
Measles	0.04	0.05	0.03	0.06	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.00
Diphtheria	0.07	0.07	0.06	0.05	0.00
Influenza	0.11	0.10	0.11	0.06	0.69
Notifications:—					
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	0.00
Scarlet Fever	2.41	2.60	2.58	2.05	0.00
Diphtheria	1.58	1.85	1.53	1.90	0.00
Enteric Fever	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.05	0.00
Erysipelas	0.40	0.46	0.39	0.46	0.00
Pneumonia	1.10	1.28	0.98	0.98	4.82
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births.				
Deaths under 1 year of age	53	57	51	57	100
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	5.5	7.8	3.6	13.1	0
Maternal Mortality:—					
Puerperal Sepsis	0.89	Not available			0
Others	2.19				
Total	3.08				
	Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e. Live and Still)				
Maternal Mortality:—					
Puerperal Sepsis	0.86	Not available			0
Others	2.11				
Total	2.97				
Notifications:—					
Puerperal Fever	14.42	18.08	12.51	3.53	90.90
Puerperal Pyrexia				15.46	

TABLE III.

Showing Causes of Death as given in the Registrar-General's Short List.

Short List No.	Cause of Death.	Males.	Females.	Total
1.	Typhoid and Para-typhoid fevers...	—	—	—
2.	Measles	—	—	—
3.	Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
4.	Whooping Cough	—	—	—
5.	Diphtheria	—	—	—
6.	Influenza	1	—	1
7.	Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—
8.	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—
9.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	—	1
10.	Other Tuberculosis	—	—	—
11.	Syphilis	—	—	—
12.	General Paralysis of the Insane			
	Tabes Dorsalis	1	—	1
13.	Cancer	1	—	1
14.	Diabetes	—	—	—
15.	Cerebral Hæmorrhage	—	1	1
16.	Heart Disease	7	8	15
17.	Aneurysm	—	—	—
18.	Other Circulatory Diseases	2	4	6
19.	Bronchitis	—	—	—
20.	Pneumonia (all forms)	2	—	2
21.	Other Respiratory Diseases	—	—	—
22.	Peptic Ulcer	—	—	—
23.	Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	—	—	—
24.	Appendicitis	—	—	—
25.	Cirrhosis of the Liver	—	—	—
26.	Other Liver Diseases	—	—	—
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	—	—	—
28.	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	—	—	—
29.	Puerperal Sepsis	—	—	—
30.	Other Puerperal Diseases	—	—	—
31.	Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, etc.	1	—	1
32.	Senility	—	—	—
33.	Suicide	—	—	—
34.	Other Violence	—	1	1
35.	Other Defined Causes	2	3	5
36.	Causes Ill Defined or Unknown ...	—	—	—
TOTALS		18	17	35

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
IN THE AREA.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

The Woodhall Spa Nursing Association employs a Certified Midwife who is also employed by the Lindsey County Council under the Midwives Act 1936. This arrangement provides not only for the Urban District but also for the surrounding parishes.

The County Council also provides a nurse to attend on cases of certain infectious diseases which are nursed at home.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Arrangements have been made whereby the necessary Laboratory facilities are afforded by the Lindsey County Council at the County Laboratory, County Offices, Lincoln, through the Medical Officer of Health. While this arrangement is fairly satisfactory it must be borne in mind that the Council is now the Authority responsible for the Water Undertaking and it would be of the greatest advantage to have a laboratory in or near the Urban District to facilitate control of the purity of the water by modern bacteriological methods.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(a) Accident and General.

The British Red Cross Society's Ambulance, stationed at Mr. Friskney's Garage, West Street, Horncastle, remains available as in previous years.

(b) Infectious Diseases.

There is no infectious diseases ambulance in the Urban District nor is there any arrangement whereby one from a neighbouring authority is at all times available. The usual method is to arrange for the Hospital Authority accepting the case for treatment to undertake removal in its own ambulance.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.

The Lindsey County Council being the Education, Maternity and Child Welfare and Tuberculosis Authority for the Urban District, provides the appropriate Clinics and Centres. There is no Centre in Woodhall Spa, the nearest being Rolleston House, Horncastle, where Tuberculosis Dispensaries, School and Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics are held weekly (vide time-table infra).

In this connection it may be noted that the Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District is now also Assistant County Medical Officer and has charge of these clinics (except the Maternity and Child Welfare Department, the work of which is carried out by a Lady Medical Officer specially qualified in these duties). This arrangement has reduced considerably the duplication of records and has facilitated the co-ordination of services provided by the County Council on the one hand and the Urban District Council on the other.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The County Council's Scheme provides Ante- and Post-natal examinations for expectant mothers and women following confinement as well as Infant and "Todler" Clinics, where advice may be obtained on child hygiene. Dried Milk is available at cost price and below this in necessitous cases. The scheme includes, as well, arrangements for specialist treatment and the provision of home helps where required. As part of this scheme one of the County Council's Staff of Health Visitors resides in the Urban District and performs the duties of Health Visitor, Tuberculosis Nurse and School Nurse in a most efficient manner.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE TREATMENT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

The Lindsey County Council as Education Authority arranges the medical inspection of School Children in the Urban District. Arrangements for treatment are carried out in the usual way through the Horncastle Clinic.

TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY.

Facilities are provided by the County Council at the Horncastle Clinic for the diagnosis and treatment of persons suffering from, or suspected to be suffering from Tuberculosis. The Clinic at 30, Lindum Road, Lincoln, is also available for residents of Woodhall Spa.

TIMES AND DAYS OF CLINICS.

The above mentioned facilities are available as follows:—

Day and Time.		
Clinic.	Horncastle.	Lincoln.
Dental	By arrangement.	By arrangement.
Maternity and Child Welfare	Tuesdays, 2 p.m.	Fridays, 10 a.m.
Ophthalmic	By arrangement.	By arrangement.
School Clinic (Minor Ailment)	Thursdays, 10 a.m.	Fridays, 10 a.m.
Tuberculosis	Thursdays, 10 a.m.	Fridays, 10 a.m.

The County Council's scheme makes available for persons resident in Woodhall Spa Urban District the following Centres and Clinics:—

Orthopædic: At Spilsby.

Rheumatic and Heart Diseases: At Gainsborough.

Venereal Diseases: At Beaumont Free, Lincoln.

HOSPITALS.

Public Assistance Hospital accommodation is provided adequately by the Lindsey County Council.

The General Voluntary Hospitals serving the Urban District are the Horncastle War Memorial Hospital and the Lincoln County Hospital. These institutions perform their functions in an entirely satisfactory manner.

The Alexandra Hospital, Woodhall Spa, the only Hospital actually situated in the Urban District, is reserved for Rheumatic Diseases work in connection with the Spa.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITALS.

No arrangement exists at present with any Hospital Authority for the treatment of cases of infectious disease. This is a most unsatisfactory state of affairs as the Local Authority is to a great extent dependent upon the good-will of other Authorities for the Hospital treatment of cases of infectious disease occurring in the Urban District. This is all the more serious when the nature of Woodhall Spa as a holiday resort is remembered. At certain times of the year there are a number of persons resident in the Hotels and in the event of infectious diseases occurring amongst them rapid removal to an isolation hospital is imperative.

From time to time conferences have been held on the subject of provision of Hospital accommodation in conjunction with neighbouring authorities but no constructive outcome from these has been observed. Fortunately during 1938 there were no cases of infectious diseases calling for hospital isolation but with the present situation existing the control of a disease reaching epidemic prevalence would be extremely difficult if not impossible. It is to be hoped that a satisfactory arrangement will

be reached in the near future. Cases of Small Pox are provided for at the Small Pox Hospital, Osgodby, by the Lindsey and Lincoln Joint Small Pox Hospital Board.

TUBERCULOSIS HOSPITALS.

As with all other arrangements for the treatment of Tuberculosis, Hospital and Sanatorium Treatment are arranged by the Lindsey County Council either in its own institutions at Branston, Louth, or Brumby or by arrangements with other Authorities.

MATERNITY HOSPITALS.

Maternity Hospital Treatment is provided by the Lindsey County Council as the Maternity and Child Welfare Authority for the area.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE URBAN DISTRICT.

(Including the report furnished by the Sanitary Inspector in accordance with The Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Order 1935, Art. 27, (18).

WATER SUPPLY.

Until the end of 1938 the supply of water for the Urban District was undertaken by a private company. During the course of the year, as the result of previous negotiations and following arbitration, arrangements were made whereby the Council should purchase the Water Undertaking, Management of this being assumed on 1st January, 1939. This arrangement will doubtless be more satisfactory as it will allow of closer supervision of the supply by the Council's Officials.

The gathering ground consists of an open moorland from which all domestic animals have been excluded. This area is 148 acres in extent and is situated about a mile from the Eastern boundary of the Urban District. Water is collected from shallow wells scattered over the moor and is pumped or allowed to gravitate to collecting reservoirs. From these it passes through slow sand filters to a pumping house where provision is made for chlorination. Pumping is then carried out through a rising main to bring the water to a service Tank on the Horncastle Road. From here the service mains are fed by gravity. Unfortunately, owing to the flat contours of the District it is impossible to maintain a reasonably satisfactory pressure at all times for use in case of fire by these means. The question of the provision of a water tower is one for consideration in the near future.

During 1938 the water supply appeared to be adequate for the needs of the Urban District. In fact, at times it would appear that there is sufficient water to supply a much larger area; a matter of some importance when the scarcity of water in the surrounding parishes is remembered.

Bacteriological Examinations were carried out on three occasions during the year, as follows:—

	No. of Bacteria at 22° C.	No. of Bacteria at 37° C.	B. Coli in 100 ml.
February	58 per ml.	2 per ml.	Nil.
July	12 " "	4 " "	Nil.
December	90 " "	14 " "	Nil.

The December examination was carried out after a heavy fall of snow. Arrangements for monthly analyses have now been made. If a laboratory were available locally it would be possible for still more frequent examinations to be done.

During the year some 100 feet of new main were laid to a stand pipe to provide a supply for a County Council small-holding cottage. The principal mains were cut and sections removed in three places during July in connection with the arbitration for the purchase of the undertaking.

SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The Urban District is well provided with sewers with the exception of the South Western portion in the vicinity of the Woodhall Junction Station. This deficiency will, however, be remedied in the near future as a scheme has been prepared to lay 2,062 feet of 7in. sewer at a cost of approximately £7,000. The scheme has been submitted to the Minister of Health, who, after holding an enquiry on 10th November, 1938, at the Council's Offices, has granted his approval to it.

Sewage disposal is carried out at a small sewage works near to the Western boundary of the Urban District. The System which combines bacterial beds with settling tanks and sprinklers works satisfactorily when afforded adequate supervision. Unfortunately certain portions of the apparatus have become worn out to such an extent as to impair seriously the efficiency of the system. It is, however, understood that replacements are to be carried out before the new sewers are connected to the works.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The Urban District is bounded on the South by the River Witham while a small tributary, known locally as the "Beck," passes through the District on its way to the Witham. At times the latter becomes very sluggish near its confluence with the river and though it receives no trade wastes gives rise to a rather unpleasant smell. When this occurs the "beck" is cleaned out. This can hardly be termed a nuisance and it is probably due to the disposal of slop waters in it by residents at the Southern end of the District. As this area will be served by the new sewer an amelioration in the conditions here is to be anticipated.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The majority of houses in the sewered parts of the village are connected with the sewers. In that part of the district to be served by the new sewer privy vaults and pail closets abound and are cleared by the Council. Immediately the sewage scheme is complete it is intended to put into force a scheme for the conversion of the majority of these to the water carriage system. Not only will this arrangement be of an advantage in the disposal of actual sewage but it is hoped that it will spell the end of the numerous "Dry Wells" or Soakage pits (often erroneously described as Cesspools) which perform the function of disposal of sink waste in a most inefficient manner.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

This is carried out by the Council by direct labour, a motor vehicle being used for the collection. Premises are visited once or twice weekly according to requirements. Dustbins are used widely.

Disposal takes place at a tip situated at the sewage disposal works. Incineration is carried out by the process of setting fire to the tip face. This is a most unsatisfactory process and although arrangements were made for the provision of an incinerator during the year this remains in abeyance.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.
TABLE IV.
SUMMARY OF TOTAL INSPECTIONS, &c., BY THE
SANITARY INSPECTOR.

	Inspections made.	Informal Notices Issued.	Statutory Notices Issued.	Sanitary Defects Remedied.
Unsound Food	—	—	—	—
Nuisances	9	5	—	5
Infectious Disease	—	—	—	—
Slaughterhouses and Meat ...	12	—	—	—
Offensive Trades	—	—	—	—
Bakehouses	9	—	—	—
Cowsheds	4	—	—	—
Dairies	14	—	—	—
Shops Act	—	—	—	—
Drains	12	—	—	—
Movable Dwelling Vans, etc. ...	—	—	—	—
Rats and Mice order	—	—	—	—
Factories	—	—	—	—
Workshops	—	—	—	—
	60	5	—	5

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are none of these in Woodhall Spa.

SHOPS ACT.

No action has been necessary or taken in regard to the Shops Act.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

As there are no large industries in the Spa action under this heading has been found to be unnecessary.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

No houses have been found to be infested during the year.

SWIMMING BATHS.

An Open Air Swimming Pool is available for public use in the Jubilee Gardens. It is owned by a private concern and is provided with adequate means of purification by a modern plant. In addition there are two private swimming pools but these are not open to members of the general public.

SCHOOL HYGIENE.

There is one Elementary school in the urban district, and it is managed by the local Church of England Church Council. The building is antiquated and inadequate when considered in the light of modern requirements. The sanitary arrangements at the school have recently been improved but much remains to be done in the way of provision of cloakroom accommodation, and so on. The Head Teacher is extremely interested in matters relating to Hygiene and a tribute is due to both him and his staff not only for their efforts in regard to the school buildings but also for their enthusiasm in inculcating ideas of hygiene and health into the scholars.

In addition to the school under the supervision of the Education Authority there are two private schools in Woodhall Spa, both of which are run on satisfactory lines.

HEALTH EDUCATION.

It was planned to hold a celebration of Empire Health Week in Woodhall Spa and arrangements were made with this in view. However, it was found necessary to modify these plans considerably as the Celebration coincided with the International Crisis. Propaganda was distributed and films of an appropriate nature were shown in the local Cinema. For his kindness and assistance with this an expression of thanks is due to the proprietor of the Cinema.

MOSQUITOES.

There have been several complaints regarding the presence of biting insects in Woodhall Spa. Investigation revealed, however, that a number of so-called mosquito bites were attributable to the activities of a variety of "horse fly." Actually the number of true mosquitoes in the district is surprisingly small when the proximity of the Fenlands is considered. The majority of mosquitoes observed in the Urban District are of the "Culicine" species as opposed to the "Anopheline" or malaria bearing species. Early in the year a campaign was commenced to destroy as far as possible the breeding grounds of the insects. This was met with a large measure of success and did much to mitigate the "nuisance."

FACTORIES.

(Included in Report under Factories Act 1937, Sect. 128.)

There are 6 Factories with, and 5 without, mechanical power in the Urban District. Inspection revealed no defect serious enough to warrant even an informal notice during 1938.

TABLE V.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH.

(Including those made by Sanitary Inspector.)

(1)	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Owners Prosecuted.
Factories—With Mechanical Power	6	—	—
Without " "	4	—	—
	10	—	—
(2) Defects found in Factories.			
Want of cleanliness	...	...	—
Want of ventilation	...	...	—
Overcrowding	...	...	—
Want of drainage of floors	...	...	—
Other nuisances	...	...	—
Sanitary Accommodation:			
(a) Insufficient	...	...	—
(b) Unsuitable	...	...	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	...	...	—
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts:			
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse	...	...	—
Other offences	...	...	—
Total	...	...	—

No instance of Outwork in unwholesome Premises was found.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

Total No. of New Houses erected during the year	...	...	...	10
1. By the Local Authority	...	...	...	—
2. By other Local Authorities	...	...	...	—
3. By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	10
1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:—				
(1.) (a) Total No. of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	117
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	117
(2.) (a) No of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	Nil
(3) No. of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	Nil
(4.) No. of dwelling houses (exclusive of these referred to under the preceeding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	Nil
2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:—				
No. of Defective Dwelling-houses rendered fit in conse- quence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	...	...	Nil
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year				
(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936				
(1) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	Nil
(2) No. of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices.				
(a) By owner	...	...	...	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	Nil
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.				
(1) No of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	.....	.....	.....	Nil
(2) No. of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:				
(a) By owner	...	...	...	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	Nil

- (c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.
- | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (1) | No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| (2) | No. of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| (3) | No. of dwelling houses subject to undertakings | ... | | | | | | Nil |
- (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of Housing Act, 1936
- | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|-----|--|--|--|--|-----|
| (1) | No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | ... | ... | | | | | Nil |
| (2) | No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | ... | | | | | | Nil |
4. Housing Act, 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding.
- | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (a) | (I) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| | (II) Number of families dwelling therein | ... | ... | ... | | | | Nil |
| | (III) Number of persons dwelling therein | ... | ... | ... | | | | Nil |
| (b) | No. of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| (c) | (I) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| | (II) Number of persons concerned in such cases | ... | ... | | | | | Nil |
| (d) | No. of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |

SECTION E.

CONTROL AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

The Cowsheds in the district have been visited periodically, all those retailing milk, 3 times during the year. The grooming of the cows and the general cleanliness has been improved. As a result of inspection one dairy underwent considerable structural improvement, including a new water supply during the year.

MEAT.

Both butchers in the urban district use the same Slaughterhouse, which is kept in excellent condition. Carcases were inspected there as detailed in Table VI.

TABLE VI.
CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle exc'ding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
No. killed.	93	12	4	312	114
No. Inspected.	12	2		83	54
All diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcasses condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
% of the no. inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Tuberculosis Only.					
Whole carcasses condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
% of the no. inspected affected with tuberculosis.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIONS DISEASES.

During 1938 eight notifications of infectious disease were received. Of these 7 were of pneumonia and one was of Puerperal Pyrexia. It is a matter of satisfaction that, despite a serious outbreak of Diphtheria in an adjacent district, no cases of this disease occurred in Woodhall Spa. It will be seen therefore that apart from Pneumonia the Urban District was fairly free from infectious disease during 1938. This incidence of Pneumonia need not be regarded as high when it is considered that half the cases were shown on notification to be influenzal in origin. Another factor which must also be borne in mind when examining the incidence of pneumonia in Woodhall Spa is the relatively high average age of the inhabitants coupled with the fact that a certain number of persons suffering from bronchial complaints come to the district to avail themselves of the special facilities at the Spa for treatment.

Investigation of the case of Puerperal Pyrexia showed that the organism concerned was not the streptococcus. As far as streptococcal disease is concerned, apart from a few cases of Tonsillitis there has been little evidence of activity of the causative organism in the district.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

In May, 1938 the Council adopted a scheme in conjunction with the Lindsey County Council for offering active immunisation against Diphtheria free of cost to all children attending the local school and to all children under school age subject to their parents' consent. In all 55 children resident in the Urban District received prophylactic treatment through the scheme. The method employed is the injection of 0.2 c.c. of alum precipitated toxoid, followed by a further similar injection one month later. This has been shown by several workers to be the most effective and satisfactory method. It is a matter of regret that the performance of anterior and posterior Schick tests was eliminated on the grounds of cost. It is to be hoped that a larger number of parents will avail themselves of the scheme in the future as a highly immunised population is the best insurance against the outbreak of an epidemic which, in the case of a holiday resort like Woodhall Spa, would be, to say the least, unfortunate.

The Notifications, treatment and deaths of infectious disease are shown in tabular form as required by the Minister of Health Table VII.

TABLE VII.

Disease	Total Notifications	Treated in Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—
Pneumonia	7	—	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—

NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

No serious outbreak of non-notifiable disease occurred though there were a number of cases of whooping cough in the early part of the year: none of them ended in a fatal result.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No action was taken under Section 176 of the Public Health Act 1936. Infants suffering from Ophthalmia Neonatorum are treated by their private medical practitioner, for whose assistance Nurses are provided by the Lindsey County Council.

TUBERCULOSIS.

There were three notifications of new cases of Tuberculosis during 1938. In two of these the seat of the diseases was non-pulmonary and in the remaining one it was pulmonary. There was one death from Pulmonary Tuberculosis. These figures are shown in tabular form (as required by the Minister of Health) in Table VIII.

TABLE VIII.
TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods Years.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0-1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5-10	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10-15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-25	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-55	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55-65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	1	2	—	1	—	—	—

No action was taken nor was any necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925 or under the Public Health Act 1936, Sect. 172.

CASES ON THE REGISTER.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Pulmonary	Nil	3	3
Non-pulmonary	4	2	6
	4	5	9



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